

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A device (2) for processing management data for a communications network (N), representing the use of the resources and/or services within the said network, ~~characterised~~characterized in that it comprises processing means (5)-arranged so as to determine primary data representing a state of use of the network (N)-by at least one user who has made a service level agreement, or “SLA”, with an operator of the-said network, from the said management data, and then to compare the-said state of use with ancillary data representing the-said SLA, so as to determine an action to be undertaken in the event of the detection of at least one difference between the-said primary data and the-said ancillary data, the-said processing means (5)-being arranged in order to determine the-said action to be undertaken amongst an action group comprising a proposal to modify the SLA made between the-said user and the-said operator and/or a proposal to modify the services and/or resources of the-said network (N), and to adapt at least some of the SLA modification proposals according to the-said difference detected.

2. (currently amended): A device according to Claim 1, ~~characterised~~characterized in that the-said primary data represent a use of at least one service and/or of resources.

3. (currently amended): A device according to Claim 1, ~~characterised~~characterized in that the-said processing means (5)-are arranged so as to adapt at least some of the proposals to

modify the services and/or resources of the said network according to at least one SLA modification proposal.

4. (currently amended): A device according to Claim 3, characterisedcharacterized in that the-said processing means (5) are arranged so as to adapt at least some of the proposals to modify the services and/or resources of the said network according to tertiaryexternal data (MD).

5. (currently amended): A device according to Claim 1, characterisedcharacterized in that the-said processing means (5) are arranged so as to determine at least some of the states of use in the form of a usage profile (SUP) in a chosen time interval, from management data corresponding to the-said time interval.

6. (currently amended): A device according to Claim 1, characterisedcharacterized in that the-said processing means (5) are arranged so as to determine an action to be undertaken from several states of use associated with different users or a state of use associated with a group of users.

7. (currently amended): A device according to Claim 1, characterisedcharacterized in that the-said processing means (5) are arranged so as to automatically initiate an SLA modification when at least one condition is satisfied.

8. (currently amended): A device according to Claim 7, characterisedcharacterized in that the-said processing means (5) are arranged so as to automatically initiate the-said SLA modification when it is associated with an increase in the tariff of the user less than a penalty representing the violation of the SLA by the user.

9. (currently amended): A device according to Claim 1, characterisedcharacterized in that ~~the~~-said processing means (5) are arranged so as to make their determinations periodically.

10. (currently amended): A device (1) for managing a communications network (N), characterisedcharacterized in that it comprises a processing device (2) according to claim 1.

11. (currently amended): A method of processing management data for a communications network (N), representing the use of the resources and/or of the services within the-said network, characterisedcharacterized in that it consists of determining primary data representing a state of use of the network (N) by at least one user who has made a service level agreement, or "SLA", with an operator of the-said network, from the-said management data, and then comparing the-said state of use with ancillary data representing the-said SLA, so as to determine an action to be undertaken in the event of the detection of at least one difference between the-said primary data and the-said ancillary data, the-said action to be undertaken is determined in an action group comprising a proposal to modify the SLA made between the-said user and the-said operator and/or a proposal to modify the services and/or resources of the-said network (N), at least some of the SLA modification proposals are adapted according to the-said difference detected,

wherein said action to be undertaken is performed by a processing means of a device.

12. (currently amended): A method according to Claim 11, characterisedcharacterized in that the-said primary data represent a use of at least one service and/or resource or resources.

13. (currently amended): A method according to Claim 11, characterisedcharacterized in that at least some of the proposals to modify the services and/or resources of the said network (N) are adapted according to at least one proposal to modify the SLA.

14. (currently amended): A method according to Claim 13, ~~characterised~~characterized in that at least some of the proposals to modify the services and/or resources of ~~the~~-said network are adapted according to ~~tertiary~~external data-(MD).

15. (currently amended): A method according to Claim 11, ~~characterised~~characterized in that at least some of the states of use are determined in the form of a usage profile (SUP) in a chosen time interval, from management data corresponding to ~~the~~-said time interval.

16. (currently amended): A method according to Claim 11, ~~characterised~~characterized in that some actions to be undertaken are determined from several states of use associated with different users or a state of use associated with a group of users.

17. (currently amended): A method according to Claim 11, ~~characterised~~characterized in that an SLA modification is instituted automatically when at least one condition is satisfied.

18. (currently amended): A method according to Claim 17, ~~characterised~~characterized in that ~~the~~-said SLA modification is instituted when it is associated with an increase in the tariff of the user less than a penalty representing the violation of the SLA by the user.

19. (currently amended): A method according to Claim 11, ~~characterised~~characterized in that the determinations are made periodically.

20. (currently amended): ~~A network Use of the method, processing device (2) and management device (1) according to claim 1 in networks chosen from a group comprising Internet (IP), ATM, Frame Relay, SDH and WDM networks, said network comprising at least said device according to claim 10.~~